

The Most Important Current Affairs April 2019

2019 Pulitzer Prize Announced: Complete List of Winners

The **Pulitzer Prize** is an award for achievements in newspaper, magazine and online journalism, literature, and musical composition in the United States. Here is the complete list:

Category	Winner
JOURNALISM	
Public service	Staff of the South Florida Sun Sentinel
Criticism	Carlos Lozada of The Washington Post
Editorial writing	Brent Staples of the New York Times
BOOKS, DRAMA, AND MUSIC	
Fiction	"The Overstory" by Richard Powers
Drama	"Fairview" by Jackie Sibblies Drury
History	"Frederick Douglass" by David W. Blight
Biography or autobiography	"The New Negro" by Jeffrey C. Stewart
Poetry	"Be With" by Forrest Gander
General nonfiction	"Amity and Prosperity" by Eliza Griswold
Music	"p r i s m" by Ellen Reid
Special Citation	Aretha Franklin

PFA Awards 2018/19 Announced: Complete List of Winners

Liverpool defender Virgil van Dijk and Arsenal Women Football Club's Vivianne Miedema were named **Professional Footballers' Association (PFA)** Players' Player of the Year for the 2018-19 season. The Awards given were:

PFA Player's Player of the Year:

Virgil van Dyjk, Liverpool.

Vivianne Miedema, Arsenal

PFA Young Player of the Year:

Raheem Sterling, Manchester City

Georgia Stanway, Manchester City

PFA Special Achievement Award:

Steph Houghgton: Former England and WBA.

Miami Open 2019 Concludes: Complete List of Winners

The **Miami Open** is an annual tennis tournament for men and women now held at the Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida. Here is the complete list:

Event	Winner	Runner Up
Men's Singles	Roger Federer (Switzerland)	John Isner (United States)
Women's Singles	Ashleigh Barty (Australia)	Karolina Pliskova (Czech Republic)
Men's Doubles	Bob Bryan and Mike Bryan (USA)	Wesley Koolhof (Netherlands) and Stefanos Tsitsipas (Greece)
Women's Doubles	Elise Mertens (Belgium) and Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus)	Samantha Stosur (Australia) and Zhang Shuai (China)

India Open 2019 Concludes: Complete List of Winners

The 2019 India Open was a badminton tournament which took place at K. D. Jadhav Indoor Hall in New Delhi, India. Here is the complete list of Winners of India Open 2019:

Event	Winner	Runner Up
Men's Singles	Viktor Axelsen(Denmark)	Srikanth Kidambi (India)
Women's Singles	Ratchanok Intanon(Thailand)	He Bingjiao (China)
Men's Doubles	Lee Yang and Wang Chi-lin (Chinese Taipei)	Ricky Karanda Suwardi and Angga Pratama (Indonesia)
Women's Doubles	Greysia Polii and Apriyani Rahayu (Indonesia)	Chow Mei Kuan and Lee Meng Yean (Malaysia)
Mixed Doubles	Wang Yilü and Huang Dongping (China)	Praveen Jordan and Melati Daeva Oktavianti (Indonesia)

Malaysia Open 2019 Concludes: Complete List of Winners

The 2019 Malaysia Open is a badminton tournament which takes place at Axiata Arena in Malaysia. Here is the complete list:

Event	Winner	Runner Up
Men's Singles	Lin Dan (China)	Chen Long (China)
Women's Singles	Tai Tzu-ying (Chinese Taipei)	Akane Yamaguchi (Japan)
Men's Doubles	Li Junhui and Liu Yuchen (China)	Takeshi Kamura and Keigo Sonoda (Japan)
Women's Doubles	Chen Qingchen and Jia Yifan (China)	Du Yue and Li Yinhui (China)
Mixed Doubles	Zheng Siwei and Huang Yaqiong (China)	Wang Yilü and Huang Dongping (China)

Singapore Open 2019 Concludes: Complete List of Winners

The 2019 Singapore Open was a badminton tournament which took place at Singapore Indoor Stadium in Singapore. Here is the complete list of Winners:

Event	Winner	Runner Up
Men's Singles	Kento Momota (Japan)	Anthony Sinisuka Ginting (Indonesia)
Women's Singles	Tai Tzu-ying (Chinese Taipei)	Nozomi Okuhara (Japan)

Men's Doubles	Takeshi Kamura and Keigo Sonoda (Japan)	Mohammad Ahsan and Hendra Setiawan (Indonesia)
Women's Doubles	Mayu Matsumoto and Wakana Nagahara (Japan)	Kim Hye-jeong and Kong Hee-yong (South Korea)
Mixed Doubles	Dechapol Puavaranukroh and Sapsiree Taerattanachai (Thailand)	Tan Kian Meng and Lai Pei Jing (Malaysia)

23rd Asian Athletics Championships Concludes: Bahrain Tops, India Finishes 4th

The 2019 Asian Athletics Championships was the 23rd edition of the Asian Athletics Championships. The 4-day event was held from at the Khalifa International Stadium in Doha, Qatar. PU Chitra won gold in Women's 1,500 metres race. Here is the list of top 4 countries in the Championship:

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	Bahrain	11	7	4	22
2.	China	9	13	7	29
3.	Japan	5	4	9	18
4.	India	3	7	7	17

2019 Badminton Asia Championships Concludes: Complete List of Winners

The 2019 Badminton Asia Championships is a badminton tournament which took place at Wuhan Sports Center Gymnasium in China. Here is the complete list of winners:

Event	Winner	Runner-Up
Men's singles	Kento Momota	China Shi Yuqi
Women's singles	Akane Yamaguchi (Japan)	China He Bingjiao
Men's doubles	HiroYuki Endo and Yuta Watanabe (Japan)	Marcus Fernaldi Gideon and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo (Indonesia)

Women's doubles	Chen Qingchen and Jia Yifan (China)	Mayu Matsumoto and Wakana Nagahara (Japan)
Mixed doubles	Wang Yilü and Huang Dongping (China)	He Jiting and Du Yue (China)

Asian Wrestling Championship 2019 Concludes: India Finishes With 16 Medals, Iran Tops

India wrapped up their campaign at the **Asian Wrestling Championships** on a resounding note with 16 medals (1 Gold, 3 Silver & 4 Bronze). Only **Bajrang Punia won the gold medal**. Championship was held at Xi'an, China. Here is the List of Top 3 Countries-

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Iran	11	0	6	17
2	China	5	5	6	16
3	Japan	4	7	6	17
8	India	1	6	9	16

Astronomers Capture First-ever Image of A Black Hole

Astronomers have taken the first-ever image of a black hole, which is located in a distant galaxy known as '**Messier 87**' (M87). The image which captured by a network of **eight** telescopes across the world shows an intensely bright 'ring of fire' surrounding a perfectly circular dark hole. The '**Event Horizon Telescope**' captured the image from the galaxy that is **50 million lightyears** away.

David Malpass Named World Bank President

David Malpass appointed as the **President of the World Bank**. He was US President Donald Trump's nominee and won unanimous approval from the

institution's executive board. He has replaced Former World Bank **President Jim Yong Kim** who left in January 2019.

Cyclone FANI: Odisha struck with Cyclone Storm FANI

Cyclone Fani intensified into a severe cyclonic storm and has now become an '**extremely severe cyclonic storm**' according to an **Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)** report. Here's all you need to know about Cyclone FANI:

1. **Hurricanes, Typhoons and Cyclones** are just different names for the same kind of tropical storm that have a low-pressure centre with high wind speeds and heads towards land. The nomenclature depends on which part of the world the storm occurs.
2. **Cyclone FANI** is named by Bangladesh. It is pronounced "**Foni**" and loosely translates to "**the hood of a snake**".
3. **Fani is currently an extremely severe cyclonic storm** with wind speeds exceeding 170-180kmph.
4. The government has put the **NDRF and Coast Guard** on high alert in the event the cyclone intensifies into an extremely severe cyclonic storm.
5. In the past (1891-2017) only **14 severe tropical cyclones formed in April** over the Bay of Bengal. Only one storm crossed the Indian mainland.
6. Cyclone Fani is the second storm forming in April and crossing the mainland. Last severe cyclone Nargis in **2008 devastated Myanmar**.
7. Fani has affected states like Odisha, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh.

Banking/Insurance Current Affairs

- **The amalgamation of Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank into the BoB has come into effect and all branches of the former two will function as branches of BoB. The merged entity** would also receive Rs 5,042 crore fund infusion from the government.
 - **RBI set the average base rate to be charged from borrowers by non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and micro-finance institutions (MFIs) at 9.21%** for the first quarter of the next fiscal (April-June).
 - **Kotak Mahindra Bank** will charge customers for UPI transactions starting **1st of May 2019**. For each Kotak Bank account, the first **30 UPI** fund transfers will be free, after which a charge will be levied on all fund transfers from the bank account.
 - **RBI has tweaked Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) norms** to provide an additional **2% window to lenders**. This move will harmonise the liquidity requirements of banks and release additional money for lending.
 - **Karnataka Bank entered into an MoU with Bharti AXA Life Insurance Company** to distribute the latter's life insurance products. The bank will be able to provide a wide choice of life insurance products to its customers across 836 branches, supported by the products of Bharti AXA Life Insurance Company.
 - The board of **Lakshmi Vilas Bank** approved the merger of the **private sector lender with Indiabulls Housing Finance (IBH)** through a share swap deal. The merger will help Indiabulls get access to low-cost stable funds and entry into banking. The merged entity will have a net worth Rs19,472 crore and a loan book Rs1,23,393 crore for the nine months of FY19.
 - **The RBI came out with guidelines for banks to set up new currency chests**, which include a minimum area of 1,500 square feet for strong room. The new chests should have a processing **a capacity of 6.6 lakh pieces** of banknotes per day. The currency chests should have CBL of **Rs 1,000 crore**, subject to ground realities and reasonable restrictions, at the discretion of the Reserve Bank.
 - **Emirates Islamic** has announced the launch of Chat Banking services for customers via WhatsApp, **marking a global first in the Islamic banking sector**. The bank's customers will now able to conduct daily banking activities via WhatsApp in a seamless and hassle-free manner.
 - **RBL Bank** has partnered with **credit profiler CreditVidya** to improve the lender's customer experience. Through this partnership, the private sector lender will be able to gain significant insights into its customer base.
 - The **Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT)**, an arm of RBI, has launched a **5G Use Cases Lab** for banking and financial sector. The 5G technology, along with blockchain, will be progressively adopted by banks.
 - **IDBI Bank** has launched '**NRI-Insta-Online**' account opening process for NRIs residing in the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** member countries. The person will not be required to furnish physical documents as well as **KYC proofs** for opening an account with the bank.
 - **ACI Worldwide** announced that **Canara Bank** has successfully rolled out major new functionality to support EMV card acquiring across its ATM network and Aadhaar Authentication, leveraging ACI's UP Retail Payments solution to achieve market firsts. Canara Bank is the first public sector bank to shift to **EMV chip and PIN** for card present transactions across the country's vast ATM network.
 - **Bandhan Bank** has received approval from the **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** for the proposed scheme of **amalgamation of Gruh Finance with the bank**. The approval made under sub-section (1) of Section 31 of the Competition Act, 2002.
 - **Bank of Maharashtra** has partnered with **M1Xchange Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS)** platform for MSME bill discounting.
 - **Exim Bank** has provided soft loans of **USD 266.60 million** to **Rwanda** for various projects. The funding, done in three separate tranches to
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Rwanda, is to support agricultural projects, development of special economic zones (SEZs) and for financing a road project in the African nation.

- State-owned **Allahabad Bank** stated that the government has increased its authorised capital **by Rs 5,000 crore to Rs 8,000 crore**. The central government after consultation with the **RBI** increased the authorised capital of the bank.
- The **RBI** has divested its entire stake held in **National Housing Bank (NHB)**, the regulator for housing finance companies, and **NABARD** to the government, which now holds 100% in these entities. The central bank has sold its stake in **NHB** in the month of March, while it sold the stake in **Nabard** in February. **RBI** had 100% shareholding in **NHB**, which was divested for **INR1,450 crore**.
- **Kotak Mahindra Bank** has launched the first **debit card-based authentication** solution on **NPCI's** (National Payments Corporation of India) **e-Mandate** (electronic mandate) **API** (Application Program Interface) platform. With this, it has become the **first ever** Destination Bank to go live with both **Net Banking** and **Debit Card-based e-mandate authentication**.
- The **RBI** has become the **first central bank** in the **Asia-Pacific (APAC)** region to begin an explicit **interest rate easing cycle**. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), headed by **RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das**, cut rates in February and April.
- **SBI** has launched India's first '**Green Car Loan**' (Electric Vehicle) to encourage customers to buy electric vehicles. The new scheme '**Green Car Loan**' will offer the loan at **20 basis points** lower than the interest rate on the existing car loan schemes.
- The **RBI** issued **Rs20** denomination banknotes in the **Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series**, bearing the signature of **Shri Shaktikanta Das**, Governor, **RBI**. The new denomination has the **motif of Ellora Caves** on the reverse, depicting the country's cultural heritage. The base colour of the note is **Greenish Yellow**. The dimension of the banknote will be **63 mm x 129 mm**.
- **Canara Bank** and its life insurance partner **Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance** launched '**Webassurance**' to enable its

customers to purchase life insurance in a convenient and hassle-free way.

- National Company Law Tribunal (**NCLT**) approved the merger of private sector lender **IndusInd Bank** with **Bharat Financial Inclusion (BFIL)**, a microfinance company. Earlier, **IndusInd Bank** had received '**No Objection**' from **RBI**, **National Stock Exchange** and **Bombay Stock Exchange**. **Bharat Financial** will become a **subsidiary** of the private lender.

Economy Current Affairs

- The **Asian Development Bank** downgraded economic growth forecasts for India and Southeast Asia for 2019 as global risks from trade tensions to Brexit mount. According to the ADB's latest **Asian Development Outlook report**, gross domestic product in India will probably increase by **7.2 %** in 2019, down from a December forecast of **7.6%**.
- On the basis of an assessment of the current and evolving macroeconomic situation, the **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** at its meeting decided to:
 1. **Reduce the policy repo rate** under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) by **25 basis points to 6.0%** from 6.25% with immediate effect.
 2. Consequently, the reverse **repo rate under the LAF stands adjusted to 5.75%**, and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate to 6.25%.
 3. **GDP growth for 2019-20 is projected at 7.2%.**
- The **RBI** in consultation with the government of India has set the limits for **Ways and Means Advances (WMA)** for the first half of the financial year 2019-20 (April 2019 to September 2019) **at Rs 75000 crore**.

- As per the World Bank, India's GDP growth is expected to **accelerate moderately to 7.5%** in Fiscal Year 19-20, driven by continued investment strengthening, particularly private-improved export performance and resilient consumption.
- The **International Monetary Fund** cut its economic growth forecasts for **India** by 20 basis points (bps) each from its January predictions to **7.3%** for **FY20** and 7.5% for the next fiscal. Citing persistent risks from the trade war, it lowered 2019 global growth forecast by 20 basis points to **3.3%**, the weakest since 2009 when the subprime crisis had flared up.
- The government has retained the **interest rate for General Provident Fund (GPF), Contributory Provident Fund** and other related schemes at 8 per cent for the first quarter of the current financial year. The interest rate on these funds was at **8% in January-March quarter of 2018-19** and government kept it unchanged for April to June for 2019-20.
- **ADB** committed to provide **USD 3 billion** in sovereign loans to India in 2018, the **highest level** of assistance since sovereign operations began in the country in **1986**, stated the annual report of the multilateral lending agency.
- **BuyUcoin**, second oldest Cryptocurrency Exchange in India, has introduced a new and unique platform for **wholesale cryptocurrency trading**. This platform works on '**free trading model**' which means it charges zero fee on any trade. It is also known as **OTC (Over-the-counter)** Desk that allows users to trade on a large scale with low price fluctuations.
- Markets regulator **SEBI** has reduced the **minimum subscription requirement** as well as **defined trading lots** for Real Estate Investment Trusts (**REITs**) and Infrastructure Investment Trusts (**InvITs**). SEBI has also increased the leverage limit for InvITs from 49% to **70%**. While making an initial public offer and follow-on offer, the minimum subscription shall **not be less than Rs 1 lakh** for InvITs and **Rs 50,000** for REITs.
- The government has hiked the customs duty on wheat to **40%** from **30%** to curb imports and protect the domestic industry. The government wants to restrict overseas purchase so that domestic prices of wheat do not come under pressure as the country's wheat output is expected to scale a record high.

Business Current Affairs

- **Reliance Nippon Life Asset Management (RNAM)** has joined hands with Google to enable the customers of **Reliance Mutual Fund** to carry out **voice-based financial transactions**. With this, **RNAM** becomes the **first company in India**, to provide a conversational interface that would help customers regarding funds transactions.
- IT major **HCL Technologies** stated that its acquisition of US-based **Strong-Bridge Envision** completed. HCL had recently agreed to acquire the Seattle-based company to enhance its **digital transformation consulting capabilities**. According to reports, the deal was worth **45 million dollars**.
- The **SEBI** has given approval to **Paytm Money** the investment and wealth management platform of the mobile payments company to start offering broking services.
- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approved **engineering and construction major Larsen & Toubro's** proposal to acquire up to **66.15% stake** in Mindtree. With this nod, **L&T** has **overcome the first major regulatory hurdle** in its bid for 'hostile' takeover of the Bengaluru-headquartered IT services firm.
- **Tata Consultancy Services** partnered with **Google Cloud** to build industry-specific cloud solutions. TCS' solutions on **Google Cloud Platform (GCP)** will help enterprises build secure, cloud-native analytics platforms that enable high levels of personalization, and are cost-effective, easy to maintain, and future ready.
- The **DoT** has approved the merger of Tata Teleservices with Bharti Airtel Ltd., subject to the condition that it furnishes a Rs 7200 crore bank

guarantee. **Telecom Minister Manoj Sinha** gave his conditional nod for the merger.

- **PayU**, Digital payments security and payment facilitator has acquired **Wibmo**, a US-based financial technology firm for **USD 70 million** (about Rs 484 crore) to assist the company scale-up its business. Under the agreement, PayU and Wibmo businesses will continue to run separately.
- **India** was a **net importer** of steel during the 2018-19 fiscal year, the first time in **three years**, as the country lost market share among its traditional steel buyers and imports jumped on demand for higher-quality steel domestically. The country's finished steel exports fell by **34%** in the fiscal year that ended in March to **6.36** million tonnes.
- **CRISIL Ltd**, a diversified global analytics company, will transfer its rating business to its **proposed new wholly-owned subsidiary**. The board of CRISIL gave the nod for the transfer, which is being done to comply with SEBI norms of 2018.
- **Reliance retail** has become the **first Indian retail** company to clock more than **Rs 1 lakh crore** in annual revenues. The retail venture of Reliance Industries reported an income of **Rs 1,30,556 crore** for 2018-19, **89%** more than the previous year's **Rs 69,198 crore**. Reliance Retail also became the first Indian retailer to cross more than **10,000 stores**.
- **SBI General Insurance** has launched a product – **cyber defence insurance** to protect businesses from financial and reputational losses due to cyber-attacks. This offers protection against the growing threat of **cyber breaches**.
- **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance** and **Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance** in collaboration launched their first product '**Total Health Secure Goal**'. The new insurance product is a combination of two existing plans – **Health Guard policy** by Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, and **iSecure** from Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance.
- **Microsoft** has reached a valuation of **one trillion** dollars for the **first time** after posting an increase in profits. It makes the software giant only the **third** publicly-traded company in history to reach the threshold after **Apple** and **Amazon** passed it in **2018**.
- **Wipro Consumer Care** announced that it is acquiring personal care company '**Splash**', which is based in the **Philippines**. Splash, the largest

personal care player in the Philippines, recorded revenues worth \$80 million in 2018.

Schemes/ Committees/ Portals/ Apps/ Missions Launched by the Union & State Govt.

- The total deposits in **Jan Dhan Account** are set to **cross Rs 1 lakh crore** soon. The scheme was launched on 28th August 2014 by the Modi-government with an aim to provide universal access to banking facilities to all households.
 - The Centre has set up a tribunal, headed by **Justice Chander Shekhar** of the Delhi High Court, to adjudicate if there exists sufficient cause to ban the **Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu and Kashmir (Jel)** and the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front-Yasin Malik (**JKLF-Y**) faction.
 - The Central Works Public Department (**CPWD**) has constituted an **expert committee to formulate a design policy** for building construction and infrastructure development. The committee set up under the chairmanship of CPWD's Additional Director General **M K Sharma**.
 - **Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has set up a 13-member committee under **IRDAI Executive Director Suresh Mathur** to review the regulatory framework on microinsurance & recommend measures to increase the demand for such products.
 - **WhatsApp** launched an India-focused **fact-checking feature** to combat fake news and rumours starting with the run-up to the Lok Sabha elections. Developed in collaboration with India-based media skilling startup **PROTO**, the tip line feature will help create a **database** of rumours to study misinformation during elections as part of a research project commissioned and assisted by **WhatsApp**.
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- President Kovind launched '**CRPF Veer Parivar**' app, a mobile application for families of **CRPF** personnel killed in the line of duty.
- **Bharti Airtel and the FICCI Ladies Organisation** (FLO, the women business wing of apex trade body FICCI) launched a carrier agnostic safety app named '**My Circle**' which designed to empower women in the event of any distress or panic situation.
- **ETMONEY** India's largest app for **financial services** has integrated with Unified Payment Interface as a payment method. The reason for this is to double its monthly user base by the end of **2019**.

States Current Affairs

- For the **second** year in succession, **Telangana** ranks number **1** in the **e-Learning training program** of the Department of Personnel and Training (**DoPT**), Government India.
- '**Kandhamal Haldi**', a variety of turmeric indigenous to **southern Odisha**, has earned the Geographical indication (GI) tag from **Intellectual Property India**, an organization functioning under the auspices of the **Union ministry of commerce & industry**.

Appointments/Resignations (National & International)

- Executive Director of ICICI Bank, **Vijay Chandok** appointed as **MD and CEO of ICICI Securities**, a subsidiary of ICICI bank. He will succeed Shilpa Naval Kumar. He joined the ICICI Group in **1993**.
- **Manu Sawhney** took over as the **International Cricket Council (ICC) CEO**. Sawhney working alongside the outgoing CEO David Richardson for the last six weeks to ensure a smooth transition within the organisation.
- **Rajan Anandan**, vice president for Google India and South East Asia, and essentially heading Google in India, is leaving the company after an eight-year stint.
- **Algeria's President Abdelaziz Bouteflika** has resigned from the post with immediate effect, ceding power in the face of massive street protests against his 20-year rule.
- The UN Secretary-General, **Antonio Guterres** announced the appointment of **Nicholas Koumjian** of the United States as the head of the **Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar**.
- Chicago has created history by **electing an African-American woman as its mayor for the first time**. Lightfoot will take over office from Mayor Rahm Emanuel.
- **Vipin Anand** has taken charge as **Managing Director of Life Insurance Corporation of India**. Prior to this, he was in charge of LIC's Western Zone, headquartered at Mumbai.
- **CS Rajan** appointed **Managing Director** while Vineet Nayar named as **Executive Vice-Chairman** of Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (**IL&FS**).
- **David Malpass** appointed as the **President of the World Bank**. He was US President Donald Trump's nominee and won unanimous approval from the institution's executive board. He has replaced Former World Bank **President Jim Yong Kim** who left in January 2019.
- SUN Group Chairman Vikramjit Singh Sahney elected as the new president of **International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) – India**.
- The government has announced that **Karnam Sekar (MD and CEO of the erstwhile Dena Bank)** will take over as **MD and CEO of Indian Overseas Bank** from July 1. His term will end in June 2020. Also, **R A Sankara Narayanan (former MD and CEO of Vijaya Bank)** will move to **Canara Bank** as MD and CEO.
- **Justice Vikram Nath**, the senior most judge of Allahabad High Court, was appointed as the first Chief Justice of the newly-constituted **Andhra Pradesh High Court**.
- **Algeria's parliament confirmed Abdelkader Bensalah** as the **new interim president of the country**, following resignation by the ailing **Abdelaziz Bouteflika**.
- Israeli PM **Benjamin Netanyahu** has won a **fifth** term in office. His closest opponent's party

the Blue and White party conceded defeat, clearing the path for Netanyahu to set up a coalition government.

- In a bureaucratic reshuffle, the Centre has appointed **Gargi Kaul** as **Secretary, Defence Finance**.
- **President Jovenel Moise** announced that **Jean Michel Lapin** will be the new PM of Haiti. It is French-speaking Caribbean Community (CARICOM) country.
- Professor **Najma Akhtar** was appointed as the **first woman vice-chancellor** of **Jamia Millia Islamia**, making her the first woman to hold the charge.
- **Bibhu Kalyan Nayak** became the **first Indian** to be appointed Chair of **International Hockey Federation (FIH) Health and Safety Committee** by the world governing body.
- The **Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas** has appointed **Mohammed Ishtayeh** as the new PM. Mohammed Ishtayeh will succeed Rami Hamdallah.
- Indian women's cricket team captain **Mithali Raj** named the goodwill ambassador of Team India at the **Street Child Cricket World Cup (SCCWC)**.
- Mali's PM **Soumeylou Boubeye Maiga** has resigned along with his whole government, following a motion of no confidence over its failure to handle violence in the West African country.
- Deutsche Bank appointed **Kaushik Shaparia** as the chief executive officer for India to succeed **Ravneet Gill**. Gill left the bank to head private lender **YES Bank**.
- Twitter has appointed **Manish Maheshwari** as the Managing Director of its India operations. In 2018, **Taranjeet Singh** had stepped down as the India Country Director and Balaji Krish was given charge of leading the country's operations in the interim period.
- **Uday Kumar Varma**, a former bureaucrat retired from the post of Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, resigned from the post of The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry (**Assocham**) **Secretary-General**.
- Former Dena Bank **MD & CEO Karnam Sekar** is set to take over as the new **Managing Director and CEO** of **Indian Overseas Bank** from **July 1, 2019**. He will take over from **R Subramaniakumar**.
- General (Retd.) **Dalbir Singh Suhag** appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of **Seychelles**.

- **Hockey India** named **Graham Reid** as the new **chief coach of the India men's hockey team**.

Sports Current Affairs

- **South Korea** defeated **India** in the penalty shootout in the final of **Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2019**. 17th Ranked South Korea defeated World number 5, India to win the Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey Cup which was held at Azlan Shah Stadium in **Ipoh, Malaysia**.
- **Indian shooters** continued their dominance claiming five gold medals on the final day of the **Asian Airgun Championships** to **sign off with a total of 25 medals in Taoyuan, Taipei**. India finished with **16 gold, 5 silver, and 4 bronze medals**.
- Five times world champion **Lewis Hamilton** won **Bahrain Grand Prix 2019** title by beating **Valtteri Bottas** of Finland who secured the second position. **Charles Leclerc** was finished at the third position and became Ferrari's youngest ever race winner at the age of 21.
- **Saurav Ghosal** became the **first Indian male squash player** to enter the top 10 in latest **Professional Squash Association (PSA) world rankings**.
- **Praful Patel**, president of **All India Football Federation (AIFF)**, has become the **first Indian** to be elected as a member of **FIFA Executive Council**.
- The **All India Tennis Association (AITA)** has signed an **MoU with Serbian Tennis Federation (STF)** to train **Indian junior players under world-renowned Serbian coaches**.
- Ethiopian athletes **Gelete Burka** (women's race) and **Abrha Milaw** (men's race) won the 43rd

edition of the **Paris Marathon**. They led a record 60,000 participants to the finish line through the **French capital**.

- **Famous Golfer Tiger Woods** completed one of the sport's great all-time comebacks to end an 11-year major title drought at the **Masters by claiming a fifth Green Jacket**. A gritty two-under 70 clinched a **one-shot victory over Dustin Johnson**, Brooks Keopka and Xander Schauffele.
- In motor racing, **Lewis Hamilton won the Chinese Grand Prix** for a record sixth time. He seized the overall lead from his **Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas** in **Formula One's 1,000th world championship race**.
- **India bagged a Gold and two Silver medals** at the **Boxing World Cup at Cologne in Germany**. **Meena Kumari Maisnam** (from Manipur) claimed the **Gold medal in the 54 kg category**. The 2014 Asian Championships bronze medallist defeated Thailand's Machai Bunyanut in the final.
- **Former junior national champion Harsheel Dani** rallied from a game down against **Mads Christophersen of Denmark** to clinch the **Dutch International badminton title** in **The Hague, Netherlands**.
- India's **Bajrang Punia** has regained the world number **one** spot in the men's **65-kilogram** freestyle category rankings. The rankings were released by **United World Wrestling**.
- **Fabio Fognini** became the **first Italian** to win an **ATP Masters 1000 title** at the **Rolex Monte-Carlo Masters**. He defeated **Dusan Lajovic**.
- World number one **Bajrang Punia** won gold at **Asian Wrestling Championship in China's Xian**. He defeated Kazakhstan's Sayatbek Okasov in a nail-biting 65kg men's freestyle final.

- **Asian Athletics Championships 2019** held at **Doha in Qatar**. It was the **23rd** edition of the Championships. India ended at the **fourth** spot in the medals tally with **3 Gold, 7 Silver and 7 Bronze**. **Bahrain topped** the table with 11 Gold, 7 Silver and 4 Bronze. **China** was second while **Japan** was third.
- India won **gold** each in **10 metres Air Rifle Mixed Team** and **10 metres Air Pistol Mixed team** events in the **ISSF World Cup in Beijing**. Shooters **Manu Bhaker** and **Saurabh Chaudhary** took the top spot in the 10 metres Air Pistol Mixed Team event while **Anjum Moudgil** and **Divyansh Singh Panwar** won gold in the 10 metres Air Rifle Mixed Team event.
- **Pankaj Advani**, the **21-time** India's cueist defeated **Ehsan Heydari Nezhad** of Iran 6-4 to clinch the **Asian Snooker Tour title**.
- **India won 13 medals**, including 2 gold, 4 silver, and 7 bronze at the Asian Boxing Championships in **Bangkok**. Boxers **Pooja Rani** and **Amit Panghal** gave India 2 gold medals.
- **Abhishek Verma** won the **10m air pistol gold** medal at the **ISSF World Cup at Beijing, China**. He clinched the top spot with a total score of 242.7. Russia's **Artem Chernousov** took silver.
- **Mercedes' Finnish driver Valtteri Bottas** beat his English teammate Lewis Hamilton by 1.5 seconds to win **Azerbaijan Grand Prix**. With this, **Mercedes became the first team to win the opening four races of an F1 season** with one-two finishes.
- World number three tennis player **Petra Kvitova (Czech Republic)** beat **Anett Kontaveit (Estonia)** to win **Stuttgart's Porsche Grand Prix** for her second title of the year. The championship was held at **Stuttgart, Germany**.
- Australia's **Claire Polosak** will become the **first female umpire** to officiate in a **men's one-day international** at the **ICC World Cricket League Division Two match**.
- India ended their campaign at the **International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup** with a total of **four medals, three golds and a silver**. China was on the second position with 5 medals including 2 gold. The event was held in **Beijing, China**. **Divyansh Panwar** and **Anjum Moudgil** had won the first medal for India at the Beijing ISSF World Cup after clinching **gold in 10m Air Rifle Mixed event**.
- **Dominic Thiem (Austria)** won the **Barcelona Open 2019** after defeating **Daniil Medvedev (Russia)**.

The Austrian became just the fourth player in the past 15 years to lift the title in Barcelona, joining Rafael Nadal, Kei Nishikori and Fernando Verdasco.

- **Bajrang Punia** is set to become the **first wrestler from India to fight at the iconic Madison Square Garden in New York**. The 25-year-old has recently won the gold medal in the 65-kg category at the ongoing Asian Wrestling Championships.

International Current Affairs

- Tesla has developed its **'largest power storage system in Asia' at Osaka train station in Japan** to reduce energy demand and provide emergency backup power to trains in Japan. It was launched in partnership with Kintetsu, a railway operator in Japan's Osaka. 7 megawatt-hours (MWh) system is its largest energy storage project in Asia and the fourth largest in the greater Asia-Pacific (APAC) region.
- Zoologists at Trinity College Dublin have discovered two **new bird species named as the Wakatobi white-eye and the Wangi-Wangi white-eye** in the Wakatobi Archipelago of Sulawesi, Indonesia.
- The **United Nations and the European Union (EU)** have signed a joint framework aimed at strengthening partnership in counter-terrorism efforts. The UN Office of Counter-Terrorism announced that the framework was enacted on the occasion of the second EU-UN high-level

political dialogue on Counter-Terrorism that was held in New York.

- US President **Donald Trump** stated that his administration is withdrawing the U.S. signature from the **U.N. Arms Trade Treaty**, in response to concerns from gun rights activists that it could impinge on Americans' right to bear arms.
 - Anti-graft lawyer **Zuzana Caputova** won **Slovakia's** presidential election, making her the country's **first female** head of state.
 - Japan has announced that the name of its new imperial era, set to begin on 1 May, will be **'Reiwa'**, signifying order and harmony. The country's current era, Heisei, will end in April.
 - India has signed an MoU with the **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Consultancy Service (NABCONS)** for setting up the India-Africa Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development (IAIARD) in Malawi, a landlocked country in southeastern Africa.
 - The joint military exercise between **Morocco and the US, "African Lion 2019,"** kicked off in southern Morocco. The exercise marks the participation of thousands of military officers.
 - The **US designated Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)** a foreign terrorist organisation. It is the **first time that the US has designated an entity of another government** as a terrorist organization, placing a group with vast economic resources that answer only to **Iran's supreme leader in the same category as al-Qaida and the Islamic State**.
 - **Google parent Alphabet** has beaten Amazon to launch one of the **first commercial drone delivery businesses**. Alphabet made its first delivery in Canberra after getting approval from the country's civil aviation authority.
 - London is the **first city in the world to implement a 24-hour**, seven day a week Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ), inside which vehicles will have to meet tough emissions standards or face a charge.
 - The UAE has announced that **India will be the Guest of Honour country at the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair, ADIBF 2019**, to be held at the end of April 2019.
 - **Hong Kong's equity market has overtaken Japan** to be the **world's third largest in value**, behind only the U.S. and mainland China. Hong Kong's market cap was \$5.78 trillion, compared with \$5.76 trillion for Japan, **according**
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to data compiled by Bloomberg based on where primary securities are listed.

- The world's first armed amphibious drone boat named '**Marine Lizard**' and guided by China's BeiDou Navigation Satellite System, successfully tested by China. It possesses the capability of forming a combat triad with aerial drones and other drone ships.
- **Google** has opened its **first African artificial intelligence (AI) centre** in **Ghana's capital Accra**, one year after announcing the project.
- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** and the **World Bank** have together launched a private blockchain with a pseudo-token. The new token, called "**Learning Coin**" and only accessible within the IMF and World Bank, has a purpose to teach relevant individuals within the organizations about blockchain.
- To boost tea trade, cultural and technical exchanges as well as the global promotion of tea, the **Asian Tea Alliance (ATA)**, a union of five tea-growing and consuming countries, was launched in Guizhou, **China**.
- **Volodymyr Zelenskiy**, an actor and comedian has won a landslide victory in **Ukraine's** presidential election. The incumbent, **Petro Poroshenko** conceded defeat.
- The **London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)** has announced the creation of the **Amartya Sen Chair** in Inequality Studies, named in honour of the India-born economist, philosopher, and Nobel laureate, who was Professor of Economics at LSE from 1971-82.
- Indonesia has released a special commemorative stamp on the theme of **Ramayana to mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of its diplomatic ties with India**.
- Israeli PM **Benjamin Netanyahu** has announced that he would name a new community in the **Golan Heights** after US President **Donald Trump**, who officially recognised the disputed area as Israeli territory.
- **Russia** has successfully tested the world's **first** floating nuclear power plant (**NPP**), **Akademik Lomonosov**, a subsidiary of Rosatom nuclear corporation stated. Reactors of the floating atomic block were launched in November 2018.
- The **world's first-ever malaria vaccine** was launched in a pilot project in Africa's **Malawi**. The country is the first of three in Africa in which the

vaccine, known as **RTS,S**, will be made available to children up to **2 years** of age.

- **Kazakhstan has set up Coordinating Council for attracting foreign investments** including from India. A decision was taken to lay down the functions of Investment Ombudsman in order to venture for new approaches to improve the investment scenario in Kazakhstan.
- **Iran and Pakistan** have agreed to set up a joint border "**reaction force**" to combat the attacks by militant groups on both sides their frontier.
- **Russia's Vladimir Putin and North Korea's Kim Jong Un** met face-to-face for the first time and vowed to seek closer ties. The meeting was held at Russia's Pacific port city of Vladivostok.

Defence Current Affairs

- **Garden Reach Ship Builders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE)** became the '**first Indian shipyard**' to **build and deliver 100 warships**. GRSE Chairman and Managing Director, Rear Admiral (Retd) V K Saxena, formally handed over the 100th warship 'IN LCU L-56' to the Indian Navy.
 - The Indian Army has successfully built the longest suspension bridge '**Matiri Bridge**' over the **Indus River** in the **Leh-Ladakh** region. Built in a record time of **40 days** 'Maitri Bridge' is longest Suspension Bridge over Indus River.
 - The joint military exercise between **Morocco and the US**, "**African Lion 2019**," kicked off in southern Morocco. The exercise marks the participation of thousands of military officers.
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- India's first indigenously designed and developed **Dhanush artillery gun was inducted in the Indian Army** during a ceremony held at Ordnance Factory in Jabalpur, MP. Dhanush 155mm/45 calibre towed gun system can be deployed in all types of terrains.
- The sixth edition of the joint military training exercise between the **Indian Army and the Sri Lankan Army**, Exercise **Mitra Shakti** concluded in Sri Lanka.
- **Military forces of India and Singapore** got together to participate in a joint exercise in **Babina Cantonment in Jhansi**. The three-day exercise, '**Bold Kurukshetra-2019**', is being conducted to develop military technology, boost maritime security and bolster the nations' fight against terrorism.
- **India has successfully test-fired** first indigenously designed and developed long-range sub-sonic cruise missile '**Nirbhay**' from a test range in Odisha. The all-weather missile, has a 1,000-kilometre strike range.
- Chief of Army Staff General **Bipin Rawat** commissioned the Indian Coast Guard Ship **Veera** at a ceremony held at Naval Jetty at the dockyard at Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- The Indian Navy undertook the second edition of the bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and Vietnam Peoples' Navy, (**IN – VPN BILAT EX**) at/ off Cam Ranh Bay, **Vietnam**.
- The Indian Navy will participate in **International Fleet Review (IFR)** that is scheduled to take place in **Qingdao, China** as part of 70th Anniversary celebrations of People's Liberation Army Navy (**PLA Navy**).
- **India and France** will conduct their largest ever naval exercise '**Varuna**' in **May 2019**. It will witness the participation of aircraft carriers, destroyers, submarines, and fighters. India will deploy its aircraft carrier, **INS Vikramaditya** with its **MiG-29K** fighters.
- **Indigenously designed 'INS Imphal'** a guided missile destroyer was launched by Navy Chief **Sunil Lanba** at **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)** in **Mumbai**. This ship is designed by the Indian Navy's Directorate of Naval Designs, **New Delhi**.

Ranks/ Indexes Released

- A report by **OpenSignal**, which is named as '**OpenSignal's Hottest city for 4G Availability**' reveals the **4G Availability in India's 50 largest cities**. Out of the 50 cities, **Dhanbad**, which is also known as the coal capital of India has the highest 4G availability of **95.3%**, followed by **Ranchi** which has **95%** of 4G Availability.
- **President Ram Nath Kovind** has released the **national ranking of higher institutes** by the **Ministry of Human Resources Development (HRD)** in **New Delhi**. **Indian Institute of Technology Madras** topped the rankings while the **Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore** bagged the second rank followed by **IIT Delhi**. **Delhi University's Miranda House** was ranked the best among colleges across the country, while the varsity's **St Stephen's College** was ranked fourth. **AIIMS** ranked first among medical sciences institutes and **National Law School, Bangalore** has topped law colleges.
- **As per the World Bank Report**, **India** retained its position as the **world's top recipient of remittances** with its diaspora sending a whopping **USD 79 billion back home in 2018**. India was followed by **China (USD 67 billion)** and **Mexico (USD 36 billion)**. The Report was titled as '**World Bank's Migration and Development Brief**'.
- **India's asset management companies (AMCs)** own assets under management (**AUM**)

worth Rs24.46 trillion, according to data released by the **Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi)**. **HDFC Asset Management Co. Ltd** has claimed the top spot with an average AUM of Rs3.42 trillion

- India's population grew at an average annual rate of **1.2%** between **2010** and **2019** to **1.36 billion**, more than **double** the annual growth rate of **China**, according to a report by the **United Nations Population Fund (UNPFA)**. India's population in 2019 stood at 1.36 billion, growing from **942.2** million in **1994**.
- **HDFC Bank** identified as **number 1 bank** by customers in India, **as per Forbes World's Best Bank survey**. In the first edition of this survey, Forbes partnered with market research firm Statista to measure the best banks in 23 countries. **HDFC Bank emerged as India's No 1 bank**. ICICI Bank was at number 2 and **SBI was surprisingly ranked 11th** in the list.
- The **financial year 2019** has ended on a relatively robust note for banks. They clocked a **13.23%** year-on-year credit growth against **9.85%** in **FY2018**. Deposit growth, at 9.99% year-on-year in FY2019, was also better than the 6.15% logged in FY2018, according to the RBI's scheduled banks' statement of position in India.
- The **Time 100 Most Influential People 2019** list released, naming the world's most influential pioneers, leaders, titans, artists, and icons of the year. Reliance Industries Chairman **Mukesh Ambani** and public-interest litigators **Arundhati Katju** and **Menaka Guruswamy**, who spearheaded a historic legal battle for LGBTQ rights in India, are the Indian names that appeared in the list.
- **India** ranked **140th** out of **180** countries in the **World Press Freedom Index 2019**, released by Reporters Without Borders. The index is topped by Norway. **Paris-based Reporters Sans Frontieres (RSF)**, or **Reporters Without Borders**.
- India was ranked **17th** position among **100** countries in **Startup Ecosystem Ranking for 2019** released by **StartupBlink**. It was ranked **37th** spot last year. The report ranks countries based on the strength of its startup ecosystem.
- India was ranked **19th** out of 28 countries in the **Index of Cancer Preparedness (ICP)** released by the **Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)**. It was released as part of the report titled "**Cancer preparedness around the world: National**

readiness for a global epidemic" prepared by EIU. Top 3 countries are **Australia (1st)**, Netherlands (2nd) and Germany (3rd).

- **India was the world's fourth biggest military spender in 2018** behind the United States, China, and Saudi Arabia, according to new data think tank **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)**.

Important Days

- The **United Nations General Assembly** unanimously declared **2 April** as **World Autism Awareness Day**. The theme for this year is '**Assistive Technologies, Active Participation**'.
 - **International Mine Awareness Day (IMAD)** is organized across the world on 4th of April to foster the establishment and development of national mine-action capacities in countries. The Theme for IMAD 2019 is "**United Nations Promotes SDGs – Safe Ground – Safe Home**".
 - In India, the **National Maritime Day** is celebrated every year on **April 5**. The day was first celebrated on **April 5, 1964**. The theme of the **56th edition** of the National Maritime Day is "**Indian Ocean-An Ocean of opportunity**".
 - **April 7** of each year marks the celebration of **World Health Day**. The theme of World Health Day 2019 is '**Universal health coverage (UHC): Everyone, Everywhere**', according to WHO.
 - The **World Homoeopathy Day 2019** will be observed across the world on April 10 to commemorate the birth anniversary of the founder
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of Homoeopathy, **Dr Christian Fredrich Samuel Hahnemann**.

- The General Assembly declared **12 April as the International Day of Human Space Flight** to celebrate each year at the international level the beginning of the space era for mankind.
- The **World Allergy Organization** has organized the **World Allergy Week 2019** globally from 7-13 April 2019. The theme for World Allergy Week 2019 is "**The Global Problem of Food Allergy**".
- In 1982, **ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites)** established **18 April** as the **International Day for Monuments and Sites**. UNESCO approved it the following year during its 22nd General Conference. The theme for **International Day for Monuments and Sites 2019** is '**Rural Landscapes**'.
- **Earth Day** is an annual event celebrated on **April 22** Worldwide. It was first celebrated in **1970**. The theme for Earth Day 2019 is to '**Protect Our Species**'.
- The **World Creativity and Innovation Day (WCID)** is celebrated every year on **21st April** to encourage people to use creativity in problem-solving for all issues related to achieving the 2015 **Sustainable Development Goals**.
- **World Book Day** is celebrated every year on **23 April**. It is also known as World Book and Copyright Day, or International Day of the Book. It was first celebrated on **23 April 1995**. For the year 2019, **Sharjah, UAE** declared as the **World Book Capital**.
- **National Panchayati Raj Day** is celebrated every year on **24th April** by the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj**. Then PM of India Manmohan Singh declared the first National Panchayati Raj Day on **24th April 2010**.
- Every year on **25 April**, people around the globe observe **World Malaria Day (WMD)** to raise awareness and funds for the treatment and prevention of the disease. This year, the theme for the day is "**Zero malaria starts with me**" and it is being hosted by the **World Health Organisation (WHO)**.
- **World Intellectual Property Day** is celebrated every year on **26 April** around the world to promote the importance of intellectual property rights in encouraging innovation and creativity. **WIPD-2019** Theme is "**Reach Gold-Intellectual Property (IP) And Sports**".

- The last week of **April** every year is observed as **World Immunisation Week** in order to promote the use of **vaccines** for the protection of people of all age-groups against disease. The WIW 2019 observed from 24-30th April, carrying the theme "**Protected Together: Vaccines Work**". It was observed for the very first time in **2012**.
- **International Dance Day** is observed globally on **29th of April**. In 1982 the **Dance Committee of ITI** founded **International Dance Day** to be celebrated the **birthday of Jean-Georges Noverre, creator of modern ballet**.

Agreement Signed/ MoU Approved

- **India and Chile signed three MoUs** in the fields of **mining, culture and empowerment of persons with disabilities**. Chile announces it will allow visa-free entry to Indians holding valid US Visa. President Ram Nath Kovind participated in **India-Chile Business Forum** and interacted with young scientists at the University of Chile.
 - **Tata Power and Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL)** signed a memorandum of understanding to set up integrated customer services and optimize value for customers.
 - The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** has inked an MoU with the **Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT-D)** to collaborate in the field of standardisation and conformity assessment. The MoU was signed by **IIT Delhi Director Professor V Ramgopal Rao** and **Director General of BIS Surina Rajan**.
 - **BSE and India International Exchange (India INX)** have signed a memorandum of understanding with **Moscow Exchange (MOEX)** to connect investor community and companies in both countries besides allowing a capital formation platform.
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- The **Indian Navy and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research** inked an MoU to undertake joint research and development of advanced technologies for the Indian Navy.
- **State-run power giant National Thermal Power Corporation** has inked a term-loan agreement with **Canara Bank** to raise **Rs 2,000 crore**, which would be used to part finance its capital expenditure.
- The **BSE** has signed a MoU with **HDFC Bank** with an objective to strengthen the **BSE Startups platform**. The MoU signed to spread more awareness on the benefits of the listing of startups on this BSE startup platform.
- **India and Sweden** launched a joint programme that will work towards addressing a range of challenges around smart cities and clean technologies among others. The programme was co-funded by **Indian Department of Science and Technology (DST)** and **Swedish agency Vinnova**.
- **PAISALO Digital Limited** signed the **first co-origination loan agreement with SBI**, the first agreement of its kind in the country that SBI has signed. Introducing a platform for the last mile customer, the loan ticket is designed **at Rs 10,000 to 2 lakh**. The company expects to disburse 200,000 loan applications in FY20.
- The **Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)** and the **ISRO** have joined hands to map, validate and protect smaller wetlands in coastal regions.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Modi has given the following set of approvals. The important Cabinet Approvals are given as follows:
The Cabinet:
 1. Approves **MoU between India and Bolivia** on Cooperation in the field of Geology and Mineral Resources.
 2. Approves **MoU between India and Cambodia** on Cooperation in the field of Communications.
 3. Approves MoU between **India and Bolivia** on Cooperation in the Field of Traditional Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy.
 4. Approves creation of one post of Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General in the office of Comptroller and Auditor General of India.
 5. Approves **Cooperation Agreement between India and Denmark** in the field of Renewable Energy with focus on Offshore Wind Energy.

6. Apprised about **MoU between India and Republic of Korea** in issuing jointly Postage Stamp.
 7. Approves Continuation of Phase 4 of Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV).
 8. Apprised about MoU between **India and Brazil** in the area of Biotechnology.
- **TCS** has partnered with the **Department of Posts** in a bid to transform it into a multi-service digital hub.
 - **BSE** has entered a MoU with **Network Intelligence**, a global cybersecurity services provider to provide **cybersecurity services** to its members in line with the cybersecurity framework set by SEBI.
 - The **Ministry of AYUSH** inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** for cooperation in research and education in areas of traditional systems of medicine and its integration with modern science.
 - **Indian Army** signed a MOU with **National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC)** Limited, to build four underground tunnels along **China and Pakistan** borders for storage of ammunition and other war-related equipment.

Science & Technology News

- China has successfully launched the **first of its new-generation data relay satellite, Tianlian II-01** into orbit that will provide data relay, measurement, and control services for its manned spacecraft. It was launched by a Long March-3B carrier rocket from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in southwest China's Sichuan Province.
- **Nepal** successfully launched its first satellite **NepaliSat-1** into space. The satellite developed by the Nepalese scientists was

launched from **Virginia** in the United States. It is a low orbit satellite which will be in the **400-km** distance from the Earth's surface.

- Sri Lanka's first satellite '**Raavana-1**' was launched into space from NASA's Flight Facility on **Virginia's** east shore. 'Raavana 1' weighs around **1.05 kg** and the lifespan of the satellite is around **one and a half years**.
- The **ISRO** has launched a **Defence Intelligence Satellite, EMISAT** in its **47th Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) mission**, along with 28 other customer satellites, **onboard the advanced PSLV-C45 Rocket**. The PSLV C45 was launched from **ISRO's Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota**. It is the **first time ISRO is launching satellites in three different orbits**.
- **Tesla** has developed its '**largest power storage system in Asia**' at **Osaka** train station in Japan to reduce energy demand and provide emergency backup power to trains in Japan. It was launched in partnership with **Kintetsu**, a railway operator in Japan's Osaka.
- **South Korea** launches the world's first fully-fledged **5G mobile networks**. The system will bring smartphones near-instantaneous connectivity **20 times** faster than the existing 4G allowing users to download entire movies in less than a second.
- Google launched **Anthos**, a new open platform from **Google Cloud**, that lets users run applications from anywhere. Anthos allows users to run applications, unmodified, on existing on-premise hardware or on the public cloud and is based on the Cloud Services Platform that Google announced in **2018**.
- The most powerful operational rocket in the world, **SpaceX's Falcon Heavy**, launched its first commercial mission from Florida in a key demonstration for billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk's space company in the race to grasp lucrative military launch contracts.
- **NASA astronaut Christina Koch** is going to have her mission on the International Space Station (ISS) extended to 328 days, which would set a record for the **longest single spaceflight by a woman**.

Awards & Recognition

- The **Gairdner Foundation** announced the 2019 Canada Gairdner Award laureates, recognizing Goa and Boston-based **Vikram Patel**, Ph.D., F.

Med. Sci., for his research career raising the global profile of **mental health problems**.

- **Dr. Pawan Munjal**, Chairman, **Hero MotoCorp**, the world's largest manufacturer of motorcycles and scooters, was felicitated by the **Asian Tour** with a Special Achievement Award for his contributions to Asian Golf.
 - The **UAE** honoured **PM Narendra Modi** with the prestigious **Zayed Medal** for giving a "**big boost**" to bilateral strategic ties. President of the **UAE Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan** conferred PM Modi with the award, the highest decoration awarded to kings, presidents, and heads of states
 - **Tata Steel** named as the '**Global Slag Company of the Year**' at the 14th Global Slag Conference and Exhibition 2019. The conference was **held recently in Aachen, Germany**. It is one of the largest global annual slag event attended by major steelmakers, steel mill service providers & associated companies.
 - Vice President Venkaiah Naidu conferred **President's Certificate of Honour and Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman Awards** at New Delhi. The award of the Certificate of Honour was introduced in the **year 1958** to honour the scholars of Sanskrit, Arabic and Persian Languages.
 - **Team India captain Virat Kohli** named as the **Wisden Almanack's 'Leading Cricketer of the Year'** for the third straight time. The 30-year-old smashed 2,735 runs in 47 international innings at an average of 68.37 in 2018, including 11 hundred and nine fifties.
 - **Team India opener Smriti Mandhana** named as the **Wisden Almanack's 'Leading Women's Cricketer of the Year'**. The 22-year-old is currently the top-ranked player in women's ODIs and third in T20Is.
 - **Indonesian Eni Nuraeni** was named by **Asian Athletic Association (AAA)** as the best athletic coach in Asia for the short-haul run category in 2019. It was announced by Indonesian athletic sports association (PB PASI).
 - India's education technology startup '**Dost Education**' won a **\$25,000** tech prize along with two other winners from Tanzania and Egypt. The **Next Billion Edtech Prize 2019**, run by UK-based **Varkey Foundation**, recognizes the most innovative technology destined to have a radical impact on education in low income and emerging world countries.
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- The **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** was awarded the distinction of “**Public Water Agency of the Year**” by Global Water Intelligence at the **Global Water Summit** in **London**.
 - **PM Modi** was decorated with **Order of St Andrew the Apostle** – the highest state decoration of Russia, for exceptional services in promoting special and privileged strategic partnership between the two countries. This is the **seventh international award** that PM Modi honoured with.
 - **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)** has bagged the prestigious ‘**AIMA Managing India Award 2019 for outstanding PSU of the year.**’ The award was presented by former President Pranab Mukherjee to **Sanjiv Singh, Chairman, Indian Oil**.
 - **Telugu poet K Siva Reddy** selected for the prestigious **Saraswati Samman, 2018** for his collection of poetry titled **Pakkaki Ottigilite**. The award carries a cash prize of 15 lakh rupees, a citation and a plaque.
 - **Two schemes of the West Bengal government** for skill development- “**Utkarsh Bangla**” and distribution of bicycles to students “**Sabooj Sathi**” have won the prestigious World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) awards of the United Nations. The “**Utkarsh Bangla**” project aims at creating a pool of skilled candidates who are industry ready, while under the “**Sabooj Sathi**” scheme, bicycles are distributed to students between class IX and XII studying in government run and government aided schools and madrasahs of the state.
 - **Dr. A K Singh**, director at Life Sciences, **DRDO** honoured with **Lifetime Achievement Award 2019** during 4th APJ Abdul Kalam Innovation Conclave at Chandigarh University, Mohali.
 - An image of a **little girl crying**, as she and her mother have been taken into custody by US border officials in Texas won the prestigious World Press Photo of the Year. Veteran Getty photographer **John Moore** took the picture in the Rio Grande Valley in June 2018.
 - Reuters journalists, **Kyaw Soe Oo**, and **Wa Lone** have been selected for **UNESCO/Guillermo Cano Press Freedom Prize 2019**. Currently, they are serving 7-year prison sentences in **Myanmar**.
 - **Fincare Small Finance Bank** awarded the prestigious **Celent Model Bank 2019** Award in the category of Financial Inclusion, for ‘**Redesigning Lending to Reach Small Businesses**’.
 - A total of **150** Indian peacekeepers serving with the **UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)** have received medals of honour for their dedicated service and sacrifice. Under the UNMISS, the **Indian Horizontal Mobility Engineering Company** had completed the renovation of **145** km of roadway connecting Bentiu and Leer in South Sudan.
 - Prominent scientist and businessman **Yusuf Hamied** is among a host of Indian-origin experts honoured in the 2019 list of new **fellows of the UK’s Royal Society**.
 - **Sunil Kumar Gautam**, Special Commissioner of Police (Operations) was honoured with **Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant Award** for his book titled ‘**Samvidhan Kavya**’. He was awarded by the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
 - Indian-American scientist and social activist **Sree Sreenath** inducted into the prestigious **Cleveland International Hall of fame** for his contribution in applications in systems biology, global issues, and sustainable development.
 - The **Intellectual Property Rights Cell (IPR Cell)** of **Kerala Agricultural University (KAU)** selected for the **National Intellectual Property Award 2019**. The award, comprising prize money of **INR 1 lakh**, citation, and memento, will be presented at a function to be held in New Delhi on **World IP Day**.
 - **Dawn** editor and Columnist **Cyril Almeida** from **Pakistan** has won the IPI’s (International Press Institute) **World Press Freedom Hero award** in 2019. He won this award for his “critical” and “tenacious coverage” of the civil-military relations in Pakistan.
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- The prestigious **Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Award 2019** was awarded to National Award-winning filmmaker **Madhur Bhandarkar**, popular scriptwriter **Salim Khan** and dancing diva **Helen**.
- **Dr. Benny Antony** honoured with the **National Intellectual Property Award, 2019** in the category of Top Individual for Patents and Commercialization. Dr. Antony has over 80 international patents to his credit.
- The second edition of **Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize** was awarded to author **Rana Dasgupta** for his 2010 novel "**Solo**", a tale of estrangement and the ultimate failure of material existence.
- Ex-South Africa all-rounder **Jacques Kallis** honoured with the Order of Ikhamanga in the **Silver Division**. The national honour is bestowed by the President of South Africa on citizens who have made significant contributions to arts, literature, music, journalism, culture, and sports.
- **Arjuna awardee and star Indian golfer Gaganjeet Bhullar** won the **outstanding achievement as a player award** at the fourth edition of the annual **India Golf Industry Association (GIA) awards** at the Delhi Golf Club.

Books & Authors

- The Indian Publishing company, **Garuda Prakashan Private Limited**, launched its book '**Saffron Swords- Centuries of Indic Resistance to Invaders**'. Written by **Manoshi Sinha Rawal**, it is a book on 52 unsung warriors of India from the last 1300 years.
- A book containing English translation of the **100-year-old** classic Punjabi poem about Jallianwala Bagh massacre, '**Khooni Vaisakhi**' released in Abu Dhabi. India's Ambassador to the UAE **Navdeep Singh Suri** commended the launch of the book.

Miscellaneous Current Affairs

- **Assam's festival – the Rongali Bihu, also known as 'Bohaag Bihu'** which marks the beginning of the new Assamese calendar year started. Assam celebrates major agricultural events as the festival of Bihu.
- State-owned telecom service provider **Bharatiya Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)** has received a licence from the **Department of Telecommunications** to provide **Internet and mobile services on flights**.

- **Phayeng Village in Imphal West district of Manipur** has become **India's first carbon-positive settlement**. A village is given carbon-positive tag if it sequesters more carbon than it emits, slowing accumulation of greenhouse gases (GHGs) and mitigating effects of climate change.
- **India's first-of-its-kind 'Voter Park'** was inaugurated in **Gurugram, Haryana**, aimed at increasing voter awareness and educating people about the electoral process. **Haryana Chief Electoral Officer Rajeev Ranjan** inaugurated the park.
- The **8th edition of Home Expo India 2019** opened at India Expo Centre and Mart, Greater Noida. The three-day exhibition organized by the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH).
- **Etihad Airways, UAE based flag carrier**, has become the **first major airline** in the Gulf region to operate a flight without any **single-use plastics** on board. The objective is to raise awareness about pollution.
- Cyclone Fani intensified into a severe cyclonic storm and has now become an 'extremely severe cyclonic storm' according to an Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) report.

Obituaries

- Noted film director **J. Mahendran**, 79, passed away following a brief hospitalization. He was also seen as an actor in many films. He was also a part of the Blue Ocean Film and Television Academy (**BOFTA**) in Chennai.
- **Kartik Chandra Rath**, a veteran **dramatist**, theatre organiser, and Economics teacher passed away at the age of 70 in Cuttack, Odisha due to the heart attack.
- Biologist **Sydney Brenner** who helped decipher the genetic code and jointly won the 2002 Nobel Prize

in Physiology or Medicine, passed away at the age of 92.

- Renowned Hindi poet **Pradeep Choubey** passed away of a cardiac arrest. Choubey (70) was the younger brother of celebrated humorist, satirist, and poet **Shail Chaturvedi**.
- Former Director of Indian Space Research Organisation Satellite Centre (ISAC), **SK Shivakumar** died at the age of 66 in Bengaluru. He hailed from Mysuru, Karnataka. He was part of the team which had developed telemetry system for India's first moon mission **Chandrayan - I**.
- **America's first female astronaut** candidate, pilot **Jerrie Cobb** passed away in **Florida** at the age of 88 following a brief illness. In **1961**, Cobb became the first woman to pass astronaut testing.
- **Scotland** all-rounder **Con de Lange** who had been diagnosed with a brain tumour has passed away at the age of 38.
- One of the most well-known **paranormal investigator**, **Lorraine Warren** passed away at the age of 92.
- Eminent Bengali folk singer **Amar Paul** passed away following a cardiac arrest. He was 97. Paul lent his voice in a number of films
- Chennai's famed chronicler, cartographer, and journalist **S. Muthiah**, 89, passed away due to age-related ailments. He was awarded the **Most Excellent Order of the British Empire** in 2002 for his accomplishments.
- Veteran lady mountaineer **Rama Sengupta Paul** passed away at the age of 66 due to cardiac arrest. She led the first successful **all-women expedition** to Kedarnath Dome in Garhwal Himalaya.
- **Terry Rawlings**, a British film and sound **editor** has passed away. He was an Oscar nominee for his work on Best Picture winner "Chariots of Fire,". He was born in 1933. The 5-time BAFTA nominee also received a **career achievement award** from the American Cinema Editors society in **2006**.
- **Mark Medoff**, whose acclaimed play "**Children of a Lesser God**," which won the **Tony Award** for best play in 1980 and was turned into a 1986 movie that won an Oscar for its female lead, Marlee Matlin, recently passed away at the age of 79.
- **Former India footballer Pungam Kannan** passes away at age 80 years. Kannan played 14 matches for India & was the **former Mohun Bagan & East Bengal forward**. He won Santosh Trophy for Bengal

twice in a row (1971-73) and was the top-scorer. He was known as the '**Pele of Asia**'.

- **The former Ethiopian president, Dr Negasso Gidada** had passed away in Germany where he was undergoing medical treatment. Negasso was 75 years old. He was the president of Ethiopia between 1995 and 2001.
- **John Singleton**, an Academy Award-nominated filmmaker has passed away following complications from a stroke. He was best known for directing "**Boyz N the Hood**" and "Poetic Justice,".

Countries Capital Currencies
● Rwanda Capital- Kigali, Currency- Rwandan franc.
● Philippines Capital: Manila, Currency: Philippine peso.
● South Africa President: Cyril Ramaphosa, Currency: South African Rand.
● Algeria Capital: Algiers, Currency: Algerian dinar.
● Israel Capital: Jerusalem, Currency: Israeli new shekel.
● Haiti Capital: Port-au-Prince, Currency: Haitian gourde.
● Palestine Capitals- Ramallah & East Jerusalem.
● Seychelles Capital: Victoria, Currency: Seychellois rupee.
● Italy Capital: Rome, Currency: Euro.
● Indonesia Capital- Jakarta, Currency- Indonesian rupiah.
● Russia Capital: Moscow, Currency: Russian ruble.
● North Korea Capital: Pyongyang, Currency: North Korean won.

- Slovakia Capital: Bratislava, Currency: Euro.
- Japan Capital: Tokyo, Currency: Japanese Yen, PM: Shinzo Abe.
- Malawi Capital: Lilongwe, Currency: Malawian kwacha.
- Morocco Capital: Rabat, Currency: Moroccan dirham.
- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.
- Iran Capital: Tehran, Currency: Iranian rial.
- Hong Kong is an autonomous territory, and former British colony, in southeastern China.
- Nepal PM: K P Sharma Oli, Capital: Kathmandu.
- Ukraine Capital: Kiev, Currency: Ukrainian hryvnia.
- Kazakhstan PM: Askar Mamin, Capital: Nur-Sultan, Currency: Kazakhstani Tenge.
- Iran President: Hassan Rohani, Pakistan PM: Imran Khan.
- Iran Capital: Tehran, Currency: Iranian rial.
- Chile Capital: Santiago, Currency: Chilean peso.
- Sweden Capital: Stockholm, Currency: Swedish krona.

International Organizations / Companies in News

- Emirates Islamic, part of Emirates NBD Group, is one of the fastest growing banks in the UAE.
- Emirates Islamic Bank was established in 2004.
- Asian Development Bank Headquarters: Manila, Philippines, President: Takehiko Nakao.
- World Bank President: David Malpass, Headquarters in: Washington DC, USA, Established in: 1944.
- MD of IMF- Christine Lagarde, Headquarters in- Washington DC, USA.
- Natarajan Chandrasekaran is the Chairman of Tata Sons.
- Sundar Pichai is the CEO of Google.
- World Bank Headquarters in: Washington DC, USA, Established in: 1944.
- Deutsche Bank Headquarters: Frankfurt, Germany.
- ISSF- International Shooting Sport Federation, Headquarters: Munich, Germany.
- UN Secretary-General: António Guterres of Portugal, Headquarters in: New York, United States, Established on: 24th October 1945.
- WHO Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland, Director general: Tedros Adhanom.
- UNPFA Headquarters: New York, United States, Head: Natalia Kanem.

Financial Organizations in News

- MD and CEO of BoB is P. S. Jayakumar.
- Headquarter of BoB is in Vadodara.

- RBI 25th Governor: Shaktikant Das, Headquarters: Mumbai, Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata.
- Mahabaleshwara MS is the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Karnataka Bank, Headquarters in: Mangalore.
- RBL/Ratnakar Bank Limited is a scheduled commercial bank, headquartered in Mumbai.
- Allahabad Bank MD and CEO: S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao, Headquarters: Kolkata.
- Present NABARD Chairman: Harsh Kumar Bhanwala.
- Present NHB MD & CEO: Dakshita Das.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank MD & CEO: Uday Kotak, headquarters: Mumbai.
- SBI Chairperson: Rajnish Kumar, Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Canara Bank Chairman: Shri. T.N. Manoharan, Headquarters: Bangalore, MD & CEO R A Sankara Narayanan.
- SEBI Headquarter: Mumbai, Chairperson: Ajay Tyagi.
- CRISIL was formerly known as Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited.
- MD & CEO of SBI General Insurance: Pushan Mahapatra.
- MD & CEO, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance: Tapan Singhel.
- MD & CEO of Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance: Tarun Chugh.
- IRDAI Chairman- Subhash Chandra Khuntia, Headquarters in- Hyderabad.
- FICCI Founded in: 1927, Headquarters: New Delhi, India.
- Mr. Rajeev Yadav is the MD & CEO of Fincare Small Finance Bank.
- It was Launched in 2017.
- ICICI Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Tagline: Hum Hain Na!
- ICC Chairperson: Shashank Manohar, Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
- MR Kumar is the present Chairman of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)
- BSE MD & CEO: Ashishkumar Chauhan, MOEX CEO: Alexander Afanasiev.
- CSIR Headquarter: New Delhi, Director General: Shekhar C. Mande.

States | CMs | Governors | Capital | Ministers | Static General Awareness

- Odisha CM: Naveen Patnaik, Governor: Ganeshi Lal.

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- Assam Capital: Dispur, Chief Minister: Sarbananda Sonowal
 - Keshari Nath Tripathi is the governor of West Bengal.
 - Mamta Banerjee is the CM of West Bengal.
 - Union Minister of State (IC) in the Ministry of AYUSH: Shripad Naik.

Other Static General Awareness Current Affairs

- The government increased the accident insurance cover to Rs 2 lakh from Rs 1 lakh for new accounts opened after 28th August 2018 and the overdraft limit was also doubled to Rs 10,000.
 - e-NACH: Electronic National Automated Clearing House; OTP: One Time Password.
 - UPI is an instant real-time payment system developed by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) which facilitates inter-bank transactions.
 - Odisha, on April 1, 1936, was carved out as a separate state in the then British India on a linguistic identity.
 - Dr. G. Satheesh Reddy is the Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman, DRDO. DRDO was established in 1958. It Headquarters in New Delhi.
 - Since 1961, Arjuna Awards are given by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, to recognize outstanding achievement in sports.
 - Amartya Sen won the Nobel Prize in Economics in 1998, Bharat Ratna in 1999 and National Humanities Medal in 2012.
 - General Bipin Rawat is the present Chief of Army Staff of Indian Army.
 - Indian Navy Chief: Admiral Sunil Lanba.
 - ISRO Director: K. Sivan, Headquarters: Bengaluru, Established in: 1969.
 - Tony Award is given in recognition of excellence in live theatre.
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